**Automated Content and
Software Distribution System**

ABSTRACT

A new use for an application program installer, such as the Microsoft
Windows Software Installer (MSI) Application, which is operable to install an application
program and rollback an installation if it appears unsuccessful, and a backup-restore
application program, such as such as Tivoli Backup™, which is operable to backup and
restore a configuration of a machine. An update for altering network resources of a
customer being hosted on one or more hosting servers of a hosting service is provided.
A first server of the hosting servers is selected. A starting configuration of the first
server is backed up. The application program installer is utilized to apply the update to
the network resources of the customer on the first server. A determination may be
made whether to restore the starting configuration of the first server with the backup-
restore application program. Thus, in contrast with its normal operational use as an
application program installer, MSI or equivalent software can be configured to apply
upgrades, e.g., patches, etc., to the network resources of the customer, and Tivoli or
equivalent software may be used to recover from defective upgrades, such as errors
due to improper operation of the network resources.